(b) and (c) Indian Airlines has plans to shortly connect Hyderabad/Cochin with Doha.

Augmentation of Fleet by AI

163. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is now planning to take AB-310 and Boeing 747-300 on lease to augment their fleet; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to prevent the fiasco of the Caribjet deal being repeated in view of the bad experience with Caribjet?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air India plans to augment capacity by dry lease and not wetlease as was the case of Caribjet, However, the responsibility of maintenance compliance with DGCA's mandatory requirements and operations rests with Air India who do not anticipate any problem in compliance of these requirements.

International Flights from Cochin Airport

164. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

whether Government have received any proposal to start international flights from Cochin Airport;

if so, the details thereof;

whether any foreign airlines have submitted any proposal to start flights from Cochin; and

if so, the details thereof and the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Air India and Indian Airlines are already operating international services from Cochin airport. Requests have been received from the Government of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Austria, UAE, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan and Yemen for grant of Cochin as a point of call for their designated airlines. Since Cochin airport has now been declared as an international airport, the above demand will be discussed in the next round of bilateral negotiations for review of air traffic rights with the respective countries.